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Santo Domingo. A country with a future. By Otto Schoenrich. (Macmillan company, 1918. 395 p. \$3.00)

The lack of books in English describing Santo Domingo assures the present volume a wide welcome. The sympathetic spirit of the author inspires a confidence that a careful perusal fully justifies. His historical chapters afford a convenient summary of a tangled narrative, whose main outlines are necessary to an understanding of the republic's past and its future. In connection with his historical sketch the author might more frequently have connected his narrative with other parts of Hispanic-America, with Louisiana during the Napoleonic intervention for instance, or with Mexico and South America during the wars of independence. If this part of his work is open to criticism it is because the author makes his account too thoroughly local. The antiquarian will peruse with interest the chapter on "The remains of Columbus," which leads up to the conclusion that the sacred relics still rest in Santo Domingo, as the mighty admiral wished.

The greater part of the book is devoted to a general description of the republic's resources, productions and people, their social and political institutions, their commerce and exterior relations. Recent events receive fair attention with little criticism of American intervention, for the author frankly confesses his faith in a continued American protectorate. Numerous illustrations, an excellent map, and frequent statistical tables and lists of officials add to the usefulness of the book.

I. J. C.

Federal power: its growth and necessity. By Henry Litchfield West. (New York: George H. Doran company, 1918. 216 p. \$1.50 net)

The author of this volume has long been a close student of public affairs and has contributed to periodicals many articles upon important questions in national government and politics. As might be inferred from the title of this volume, he presents, with admirable conciseness and lucidity of statement, a sympathetic survey of the gradual, and in recent years rapid, expansion of the powers of the national government. He traces in a few bold strokes the early attempts to form a union of the colonies; the circumstances which resulted in the formation of the present union; and the influence of John Marshall, of the civil war, of congressional legislation under the interstate commerce clause, and of the supreme court in the expansion of federal power. Likewise, the growth of the presidency as the "embodiment of federal power" is illustrated by numerous instances in which presidents have been able to shape national policies through their domination of the legislative branch of the government. Federal power as a party issue and, of course, the inevitable

expansion of federal authority in connection with the recent war also receive brief treatment.

The concluding chapter on "Federalism and the future" sounds a note or two of warning. "Beneficent as the exercise of Federal power has been, and with the certainty that it will be increased rather than diminished, we must, nevertheless, admit that unless we deal with it along new lines, it is fraught with evil. Present conditions point toward an oligarchy wherein a few men will have supreme power, and the transition from an oligarchy to an autocracy is all too brief. The problem is to preserve our democracy even under a centralized, Federalistic government. The first step is to curtail executive power" by depriving the president of the veto or by making it possible for congress to override a veto by a majority vote. The next step is to increase popular control over the executive branch of the government in a way similar to that provided by the parliamentary systems of England, France, and especially Canada. This parliamentary system can and should be approached through gradual stages, "without disrupting our Constitution," by more strongly emphasizing the principles of popular government. The writer, however, disclaims any desire to reduce the presidency to the perfunctory position of the French president, and admits that it is not feasible at this time to reproduce the English premiership. "We can, however, avoid the abuse and misuse of Federal power by government officials, which is not a distant menace, if the men appointed by the President to administer the great departments of government are made directly and instantly responsible to the representatives of the people. . . . If in the past some such plan . . . had been in force, the history of sundry legislative and official actions would have been less open to criticism than has been the case."

This little volume deserves wide reading by the general public, and teachers of courses in government will also find it well adapted for collateral class reading.

P. ORMAN RAY

History of suffrage in the United States. By Kirk Porter, Ph.D. (Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1918. 260 p. \$1.25 net)

In his thesis Mr. Porter has traced the forces working from 1776 to the present time to bring about an extension of the franchise. The first two of the nine chapters are introductory, emphasizing the changes in the period immediately before and after the revolution. By the last decade of the eighteenth century the religious and moral qualifications of the colonial era had disappeared and the property qualifications had been modified by residence or taxpaying requirements.